

## Message Text

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14  
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

SAB-01 ACDA-07 OMB-01 SSM-03 IO-13 EUR-12 MC-02 SAJ-01

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, JO

SUBJECT: NEWSWEEK INTERVIEW WITH KING HUSSEIN

REF: AMMAN 3615

1. FOLLOWING IS ENTIRE TEXT OF DEBORCHGRAVE'S INTERVIEW  
WITH KING HUSSEIN AS IT ACTUALLY APPEARED IN JULY 19 NEWS-  
WEEK, U.S. EDITION:

2. BEGIN TEXT: DE BORCHGRAVE: DID YOUR NEGOTIATIONS WITH  
THE RUSSIANS FOR A SAM SYSTEM FAIL?

HUSSEIN: QUITE THE CONTRARY. WE CAME BACK WITH A VERY  
ATTRACTIVE OFFER WHICH WOULD GIVE US A COMPATIBLE YET MORE  
FLEXIBLE AIR-DEFENSE SYSTEM THAN THE HAWK. EVEN THOUGH THE  
FINANCIAL TERMS ARE GENEROUS--IT WOULD COST LESS THAN THE  
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AMERICAN SYSTEM-THE SOVIET DEAL IS OFFERED ONLY ON A CASH-

ON-DELIVERY BASIS. OUR PROBLEM IS STILL THE FINANCIAL ONE WHICH WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO RESOLVE.

Q. WHO WILL PAY FOR THE SYSTEM?

A. THAT'S PRECISELY OUR PROBLEM, AND WHAT WE'RE LOOKING AT NOW.

Q. YOU RECENTLY ASKED LIBYA TO RETROACTIVELY RESUME PAYMENT OF THE \$30 MILLION ANNUAL SUBSIDY THAT IT HAD AGREED TO GIVE JORDAN AFTER THE 1967 MIDDLE EAST WAR-BUT CUT OFF IN 1970. THE BACK PAYMENTS WOULD AMOUNT TO ABOUT \$180 MILLION MIGHT THIS BE USED TO BUY SAM'S?

A. WE'VE HAD CONTACTS WITH THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT. IF LIBYA IS WILLING TO MEET ITS COMMITMENTS AND HELP US BUY WHAT WE SERIOUSLY NEED TO REMAIN A CONFRONTATION STATE, WE WILL BE MORE THAN GRATEFUL.

Q. HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN PRO-WESTERN JORDAN TURNING TO THE KREMLIM FOR MILITARY HARDWARE?

A. OUR INABILITY TO SECURE OUR NEEDS IN AN ADEQUATE FASHION FROM OUR TRADITIONAL SOURCES FORCED US TO LOOK ELSEWHERE.

Q. WHEN DID YOUR PERCEPTIONS OF THE U.S. BEGIN TO CHANGE?

A. WE BEGAN TO FEEL LET DOWN BY THE U.S. IN THE SUMMER OF 1974 WHEN YOUR ADMINISTRATION DECIDED, AFTER THE SYRIAN-ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT, TO FOLLOW ISRAELI ADVICE TO IGNORE THE WEST BANK AND SHIFT THE U.S. DIPLOMATIC EFFORT BACK TO SINAI AND A SECOND DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT. THE U.S. HAS ALSO HELPED TO CREATE A TREMENDOUS IMBALANCE BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE ARAB CONFRONTATION STATES, PARTICULARLY SYRIA AND JORDAN. IT IS OBVIOUS TO US THAT WHEN IT COMES TO A BALANCE BETWEEN ISRAEL AND JORDAN, WE DON'T SEEM TO COUNT FOR MUCH IN WASHINGTON'S EYES. OUR DISAPPOINTMENT GREW WITH OUR UNFORTUNATE EXPERIENCE OVER THE HAWKS.

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Q. WHEN DID YOU ACTUALLY BEGIN DISCUSSING AN AIR-DEFENSE SYSTEM WITH THE SOVIETS?

A. IN EARLY MAY. AN OFFER WAS MADE IN LESS THAN A MONTH IN COMPARISON WITH FIVE YEARS OF FRUSTRATING, ENDLESS NEGOTIATIONS WITH OUR TRADITIONAL FRIENDS.

Q. WON'T YOUR DECISION TO TURN TO THE SOVIET UNION FOR

MISSILES SIMPLY HARDEN ISRAEL'S DETERMINATION TO HOLD ONTO THE WEST BANK?

A. SINCE THEY HAVE SHOWN NO INTENTION OF MOVING OFF THE WEST BANK WHILE JORDAN WAS SUPPLIED WITH U.S. ARMS, I DON'T SEE HOW THEIR POSITION CAN HARDEN STILL FURTHER BECAUSE OF SOVIET WEAPONS.

Q. HOW MUCH LESS WILL A SAM SYSTEM COST THAN A HAWK SYSTEM?

A. AS THINGS STOOD, ABOUT 40 PER CENT LESS FOR A COMPARABLE, COMPATIBLE SYSTEM.

Q. HOW MANY SOVIET TECHNICIANS WOULD COME TO JORDAN TO CONSTRUCT AND OPERATE THE SYSTEM?

A. WE WOULD OPERATE IT ON OUR OWN.

Q. HOW LONG WOULD IT TAKE TO INSTALL A SAM SYSTEM?

A. ABOUT THE SAME TIME AS A HAWK-THREE YEARS BEFORE IT IS FULLY OPERATIONAL.

Q. IS THE HAWK DEAL DEAD?

A. AS THINGS HAVE STOOD, YES. I CAN'T SEE ANY CHANGE UNLESS A BETTER OFFER FROM THE U.S. IS FORTHCOMING. NO MORE TIME CAN BE WASTED.

Q. BUT I THOUGHT A U.S. COUNTER-OFFER IN THE \$530 MILLION RANGE WAS NOW IN THE WORKS AS A RESULT OF YOUR MOSCOW VISIT?

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A. WE WILL CONSIDER ANY OFFER AND MAKE OUR FINAL DECISION STRICTLY ON ITS MERITS, AND ON THE BASIS OF OUR ABILITY TO FINANCE THE DEAL.

Q. HOW DO YOU THINK THE LEBANESE CIVIL WAR AFFECTS THE ARAB-ISRAELI EQUATION?

A. IN A DISASTROUS WAY. THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION HAS WEAKENED, PERHAPS IRREPARABLY, ITS ARGUMENT THAT JEWS, MUSLIMS AND CHRISTIANS COULD LIVE IN HARMONY SIDE BY SIDE IN A FUTURE GREATER PALESTINE. IT CAN NOW BE SEEN THAT ARABS THEMSELVES, CITIZENS OF THE SAME COUNTRY, NOT ONLY CANNOT COEXIST BUT COLLIDE DAY AND NIGHT.

Q. WITH EGYPT MILITARILY UNPREPARED TO GO TO WAR, SYRIA

BOGGED DOWN IN LEBANON AND JORDAN ENJOYING UNPRECEDENTED PROSPERITY, ISRAELI LEADERS SEEM TO FEEL THERE IS NO COMPELLING REASON TO MAKE NEW CONCESSIONS TO THE ARABS. MANY ISRAELIS BELIEVE A NEW U.S. ADMINISTRATION WILL COME TO THE SAME CONCLUSION.

A. I BELIEVE THEY ARE DANGEROUSLY COMPLACENT. WE WILL SEE A RAPID DETERIORATION TOWARD ANOTHER EXPLOSION UNLESS THE MOMENTUM TOWARD PEACE IS RESUMED. THE PRE-OCTOBER WAR

DANGER HAS BEEN REVIVED, BECAUSE AS THE ARABS BEGIN ONCE AGAIN TO ABANDON HOPE OF REGAINING THEIR CONQUERED LANDS THROUGH DIPLOMACY, ANOTHER "INTERIM" WAR WILL LOOM LARGER AND LARGER, REGARDLESS OF THE MILITARY BALANCE.END TEXT.

3. ABOVE TEXT HAS LARGE NUMBER OMISSIONS FROM INTERVIEW REPORTED REFTEL, NOTABLY: ANSWER TO QUESTION THREE, RE US BEING "MORE INTERESTED IN PLACATING FOES THAN CONCILIATING FRIENDS"; ANSWER TO QUESTION TEN RE JORDAN SENDING CREWS TO RUSSIA; AND DISCREPANCY BETWEEN DOLS \$500 MILLION FIGURE FOR US COUNTEROFFER MENTIONED QUESTION 16 AND NEWSWEEK'S FIGURE OF DOLS \$530 MILLION.

4. WE WOULD BE INTERESTED TO LEARN WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THESE EDITIONS AND DELETIONS (E.G., KING HUSSEIN, DE BORCH-GRAVE, NEWSWEEK OR OTHER). ANY LIGHT YOU COULD SHED ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THIS WOULD BE APPRECIATED. KISSINGER

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